Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States is conducting its 98th year of volunteer service to America; and,

Whereas, Year after year the organization continues to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by maintaining memorials to their service and sharing their history with our nation's youth, so what our nation's veterans have done for America will not be forgotten; and,

Whereas, Ladies Auxiliary VFW supports the troops currently deployed in the War on Terrorism; and,

Whereas, More than 520,000 members represent the families of those who have served or are currently on foreign soil protecting our freedom; and,

Whereas, The Ladies Auxiliary VFW promotes our American heritage by conducting an annual patriotic ceremony and providing financial assistance for the preservation and beautification of this country's most treasured symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty; and,

Whereas, Members volunteer nearly 2 million hours in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and other hospitals throughout this country; and,

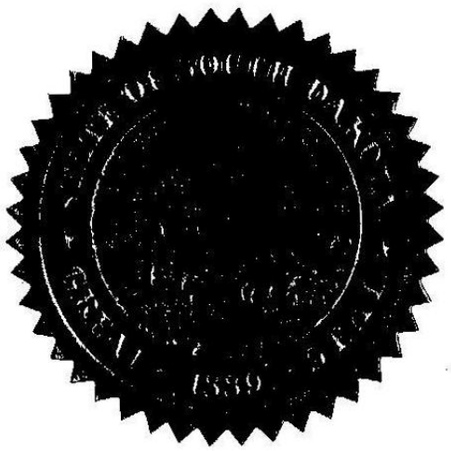
Whereas, The organization provides awards and scholarships to students based on their expressions of patriotism through art, speech, and volunteerism; and,

Whereas, The 2011-2012 National President, Gwendolyn Rankin, is rallying Ladies Auxiliary members behind her theme, ***"Step Up~Leave No Veteran Behind,"***:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2012, as

"STEP UP~LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND DAY"

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State